

March 21, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Gregg Harper
Chairman Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations –
House Energy and Commerce Committee
One Hundred and Fifteenth Congress of the United States
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

## Dear Congressmen Walden and Harper:

This letter is in response to your request dated March 13, 2018, seeking information on how hospitals treat patients and handle evidence collection when patients seek treatment following a sexual assault. The responses to your inquiry follow.

- Does Regional One Health employ SANEs or SAFE-certified medical professionals?
   Answer: No, Regional One Health does not employ SANE or SAFE-certified medical professionals.
- 2. If Regional One Health does employ SANEs,
  - a. When did Regional One Health begin employing SANEs?
    Answer: Regional One Health does not employ SANEs.
  - b. How many SANE or SAFEs does Regional One Health employ?

**Answer:** Regional One Health Does Not employ SANEs.

- c. How were SANEs trained?
  - **Answer:** Regional One Health does not train SANEs.
- **d.** During what days and hours are SANEs available at Regional One Health? Answer: Regional One Health does not employ SANEs. SANEs from the local rape crisis center are available on-call 24/7.
- e. Is Regional One Health listed on the IAFN?

**Answer**: Regional One Health is not listed on the IAFN.

f. What is the annual cost of administering the SANE program at Regional One Health? Please explain what is covered by this cost, such as the cost of SANE training, SANE salaries, and victim services. Please provide the cost for 2017, 2016, and 2015.

**Answer:** Regional One Health Does not have a SANE program.

g. What grants, if any, has Regional One Health applied for or accepted to fund any programs related to the training of SANEs or treatment of sexual assault victims?

Answer: Regional One Health has not applied for or accepted funds for SANE training or for the treatment of sexual assault victims.

3. If Regional One Health does not employ SANEs, does Regional One Health provide rape kits by non-SANEs?

**Answer**: Regional One Health does not provide rape kits by non-SANEs. Regional One Health staff is trained to notify local law enforcement officers when sexual assault victims present. The law enforcement officials make contact with Rape Crisis to have someone come to the hospital to assess the patient.

a. If so, who conducts those kits?

**Answer**: The kits are conducted by professionals from the Shelby County Rape Crisis Center.

**b.** How are these medical professionals trained to collect those kits?

Answer: Regional One Health's medical professional do not collect rape kits.

4. If a sexual assault victim comes to Regional One Health requesting treatment and/or a rape kit following an assault, what procedures are in place at Regional One Health to treat that victim? If Regional One Health does not conduct a rape kit, SAFE certified or not, please include whether Regional One Health has a relationship or agreement with another facility that does provide those services?

**Answer:** Regional One Health's procedures direct staff to contact the local law enforcement agency when a victim of sexual assault presents. The local law enforcement agency contacts the local rape crisis center to provide the rape kit. Regional One Health has relationships with the local law enforcement agencies and the Rape Crisis Center.

5. Does Regional One Health track any data on sexual assault, such as the number of sexual assault victims treated each year, how many rape kits are requested and how many rape kits are completed?

**Answer:** Regional One Health does not track data on the number of sexual assault victims treated each year, the number of rape kits requested or the number of rape kits completed each year.

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If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Tish Towns at (901) 545-7176 or by email at <a href="mailto:ltowns@regionalonehealth.org">ltowns@regionalonehealth.org</a>. Thank you for service to the citizens of the United States.

Sincerely,

Reginald W. Coopwood, MD

President and CEO